



CROCHET
SKILL LEVEL
INTERMEDIATE

Designed by Brenda K.B. Anderson



What you will need:

RED HEART® Super Saver®:
2 skeins 505 Aruba Sea **A**, 1 skein each of 722 Pretty in Pink **B**, 312 Black **C**, 324 Bright Yellow **D**, 254 Pumpkin **E**, 886 Blue **F**, 368 Paddy Green **G**
Note: Only a small amount of the second skein of **A** is needed.

Susan Bates® Crochet Hook:
4.5 mm [US 7]

Yarn needle, 6 removable stitch markers (5 of one color and one of a different color), sewing pins, polyester fiberfill, 2 pieces of quilt backing each about 15 x 20" (38 x 51 cm), paper and pencil

GAUGE: Rounds 1–9 of skull = about 4" (10 cm) diameter. **CHECK YOUR GAUGE. Use any size hook to obtain the gauge.**



RED HEART® Super Saver®, Art. E300 available in solid color 7 oz (198 g), 364 yd (333 m); multicolor, heather and print 5 oz (141 g), 236 yd (215 m), flecks 5 oz (141g), 260 yds (238 m) skeins

SHOP KIT

Day of the Dead Pillow

This colorful pillow was inspired by the sugar skull tradition that is a part of the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos. Crochet it in bright shades to honor the departed or just to add a festive feeling to your décor.

Pillow measures about 13" (33 cm) wide and 15" (38 cm) tall.

Special Stitches

dc2tog (double crochet 2 stitches together) = [Yarn over, insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up loop, yarn over, draw through 2 loops] 2 times, yarn over, draw through all 3 loops on hook.

hdc2tog (half double crochet 2 stitches together) = [Yarn over, insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up loop] 2 times, yarn over and draw through all 5 loops on hook.

sc-inc (single crochet increase) = Work 2 sc in indicated stitch.

spike = Insert hook in indicated stitch in indicated row, yarn over and draw up a loop to level of current row, yarn over and draw through both loops on hook.

Note: Take care to draw the loop up to level of the current row so that the fabric is not constricted when the spike stitch is completed.

Special Technique

Adjustable-ring = Wrap yarn into a ring, ensuring that the tail falls behind the working yarn. Pinch ring and tail between middle finger and thumb. Insert hook through center of ring, yarn over (with working yarn) and draw up a loop. Work stitches of first round in the ring. After the first round of stitches is worked, pull gently on tail to tighten ring.

Notes

1. The main section of the skull is worked in continuous rounds (spiral) with right side always facing. The jaw is then worked back and forth in rows over only a portion of the skull stitches.
2. Flowers, nose, zig-zag lines, and teeth are worked separately and sewn to skull.
3. Use of quilt batting is optional. It is used to line the inside of the pillow and helps smooth out any lumps created when stuffing pillow.

SKULL (make 2)

With **A**, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1 (right side): Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; do not join with slip st, work in continuous rounds (spiral)—6 sc. Place the different colored stitch marker in last sc made for end of round and move marker up as each round is completed. Pull gently on tail to tighten ring.

Round 2: Work 2 sc in each st around—12 sc.

Round 3: [Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—18 sc.

Round 4: [Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—24 sc.

Round 5: [Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts] 6 times—30 sc.

Round 6: [Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st] 6 times—36 sc.

Round 7: [Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts] 6 times—42 sc.

Continued...



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Round 8: [Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—48 sc. Place five more stitch markers (for a total of six markers, including the end of round marker) to divide the round into six equal sections.

Rounds 9–29: Sc in each st around and work one sc-inc in each of the six sections between markers. Place the sc-inc into a different stitch in each round so that you are never working sc-inc into another sc-inc—174 sc in Round 29. Do not fasten off. Remove all of the markers.

Jaw

Row 1 (wrong side): Ch 2 (does not count as a st here and throughout), turn, skip first st, dc2tog, dc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, sc in next 28 sts, hdc in next 3 sts, dc in next st, dc2tog; leave remaining sts unworked—38 sts.

Row 2: Ch 2, turn, dc2tog, dc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, sc in next 26 sts, hdc in next 3 sts, dc in next st, dc2tog—36 sts.

Row 3: Ch 2, turn, dc2tog, dc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, sc in next 24 sts, hdc in next 3 sts, dc in next st, dc2tog—34 sts.

Row 4: Ch 1, turn, hdc2tog, hdc in next st, sc in next 28 sts, hdc in next st, hdc2tog—32 sts.

Rows 5–10: Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in each st across to last 2 sts, sc2tog—20 sc in Row 10.

Rows 11 and 12: Ch 1, turn, [sc2tog] twice, sc in each st across to last 4 sts, [sc2tog]—12 sc in Row 12.

Do not fasten off.

Prepare Quilt Batting

Place skull onto a piece of paper and trace around the edge. Add a ½" (13 mm) border all the way around the traced outline. Cut

out the paper pattern. Place paper pattern onto quilt batting and cut around it. Repeat to cut two pieces of batting. Set aside.

Edging

Round 1 (right side): Ch 1, do not turn, work 16 sc evenly spaced across side edge of jaw, sc into each of the 133 unworked sts of skull, work 16 sc evenly spaced across other side edge of jaw, sc in each st of Row 12 of jaw. Place a marker in the last sc made, for end of round. Move marker up as each round is completed.

Rounds 2–4: Sc in each st around. Fasten off. Remove marker.

Work second skull same as first, but do not fasten off.

Assemble Pillow

Hold both skulls with wrong sides together and stitches matching. Working through both thicknesses, slip stitch about ¾ of the way around skulls. Place both pieces of batting between the skulls. Place polyester fiberfill between the pieces of batting, stuffing very firmly. Then slip stitch the remainder of the skulls closed, adding additional fiberfill as needed. Fasten off.

EYE FLOWERS (make 2)

Center

With **C**, make an adjustable ring.

Rounds 1–3: Work same as Rounds 1–3 of skull—18 sc.

Round 4: [Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st] 6 times—24 sc.

Round 5: Slip st in each st around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Front Petals

Working behind the Round 5 slip sts and into the front loops only of the sc sts of Round 4, join **D** with slip st in the first st, [(hdc, 2 dc) in next st, (2 dc, hdc) in next st, slip st in next 2 sts] 5 times, (hdc, 2 dc) in next st, (2 dc, hdc) in next st, slip st in last st; join with slip st in first slip st—6 petals. Fasten off.

Back Petals

Working behind the Round 5 slip sts and into the back loops only of the sc sts of Round 4, join **E** with slip st in the 3rd st (behind the first (2 dc, hdc) of Front Petals), [(hdc, 2 tr) in next st, (2 tr, hdc) in next st, slip st in next 2 sts] 5 times, (hdc, 2 tr) in next st, (2 tr, hdc) in next st, slip st in next st; join with slip st in first slip st—6 petals. Fasten off.

SMALL FLOWERS (make 9)

Make flowers using the following colors
Make 4 with **F** for Round 1 and **B** for Round 2.
Make 2 with **F** for Round 1 and **D** for Round 2.
Make 2 with **F** for Round 1 and **E** for Round 2.
Make 1 with **E** for Round 1 and **F** for Round 2.
With first color, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1 (flower center): Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; join with slip st in first sc—6 sc. Pull gently on tail to tighten ring. Fasten off.

Round 2 (petals): Insert hook in same st as join, yarn over with 2nd color and draw up a loop, ch 1, (sc, 2 dc, sc) in each st around; join with slip st in first sc—6 petals.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

NOSE

With **C**, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1: Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; join with slip st in first sc—6 sc. Pull gently on tail to tighten ring.

Round 2: Ch 1, beginning in same st as join, [(sc, hdc, dc) in next st, (dc, hdc, sc) in next st] 3 times; join with slip st in first sc—18 sc. Fasten off.

Round 3: Insert hook in back loop of same st as join, yarn over with **F** and draw up a loop, slip st in back loop of each st around. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

ZIG-ZAG LINES (make 2)

With **G**, leaving a long beginning tail, make a chain that measures about 25" (63.5 cm) long. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

TEETH

Lower Teeth

With **B**, ch 34.

Row 1 (right side): Working in back bumps of foundation ch, sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 7 ch, hdc in next 16 ch, sc in last 9 ch—33 sts. Place a marker in the last ch worked into.

Row 2: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 8 sts, hdc in next 16 sts, sc in last 9 sts.

Row 3: Ch 1, turn, sc in next st, [skip next st, 5 hdc in next st (shell made), skip next st, sc in next st] 8 times—8 shells. Fasten off.

Line between Lower and Top Teeth:

With right side facing and working across opposite side of foundation ch, join **C** with slip st in marked ch (do not remove the marker), slip st in next 32 ch—33 slip sts. Fasten off.

Top Teeth

Row 1 (right side): With right side facing, working behind the slip sts of the Line between Lower and Top Teeth and into the opposite side of foundation ch, draw up a loop in marked ch, ch 1, sc in same ch, sc in next 7 ch, hdc in next 16 ch, sc in last 9 ch—33 sts.

Continued...

Rows 2–4: Ch 1, turn, sc in next 8 sts, hdc in next 16 sts, sc in last 9 sts. Fasten off.

Edging

With right side facing and working into the back loops only of sts in last row of Lower Teeth, draw up a loop of **C** in first sc, [slip st in next 5 hdc, slip st in next sc, spike into top loop of the slip st in the Line between Lower and Top Teeth that is directly below (do not work the spike too tightly)] 7 times, slip st in next 5 hdc; work 7 slip sts evenly spaced across next side edge of teeth; working into the back loops only of sts in last row of Top Teeth, [slip st in next 4 sts, spike into free loop of the same slip st as next spike of Lower Teeth] 7 times, slip st in next 5 sts; work 7 slip sts evenly spaced across side edge of teeth. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

FINISHING

Block pieces if needed.

Assembly

Note: When possible, use the long yarn tails to sew pieces in place. When a long yarn tail is not available, use a separate length of yarn.

Attach Teeth: Pin Teeth to pillow so that the Line between Lower and Top Teeth runs along the first row of Jaw. With **C**, sew Teeth to pillow, sewing all the way around outer edge.

Attach Eye Flowers: Pin Eye Flowers to pillow using photograph as a guide. The center of each Eye should be about 3" (7.5 cm) to each side and ½" (13 mm) below the center ring of the skull. With **C**, sew Eye to pillow, sewing around edge of center of Eye and leaving the petal edges free.

Attach Nose: Pin Nose to pillow so that the center of the Nose is about ¾" (8.5 cm) below center ring of the skull. With **F**, sew Nose to pillow, sewing all the way around outer edge.

Attach Flowers and Zig-Zag Lines: Pin Zig-Zag Lines and Flowers to pillow, using photograph as a guide. Sew pieces in place. Weave in any remaining ends.

ABBREVIATIONS

A, B, C = Color A, Color B, Color C etc; **ch** = chain; **dc** = double crochet; **hdc** = half double crochet; **sc** = single crochet; **st(s)** = stitch(es); **tr** = treble (triple) crochet; **()** = work directions in parentheses into same st; **[]** = work directions in brackets the number of times specified.

